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STUDY OF ORGAN INFERIORITY AND ITS PSYCHICAL COMPENSATION. A Contribution to Clinical Medicine. By *Alfred Adler.* (Trans. by Jelliffe.) *Nervous and mental disease monograph series.* No. 24. Nervous and Mental Disease Publishing Co. New York, 1917, pp. X and 86. $1.50.

This monograph originally appeared in German a decade ago. Its author, a Viennese psychiatrist of considerable fame, rejects the typically Freudian view of the sexual etiology of psychoneuroses, substituting therefor a theory in which the concept of "organ inferiority" plays the leading role. Neurosis is overcompensation for the feeling of insufficiency born of discrepancy between ambition and attainment. The inferiority of some organ is the obstacle preventing the realization of one's ideal personality; there supervenes in the unconscious a battle for supremacy and dominion; insofar as the weakness is not overcome collateral paths of realization are opened. For example one becomes jealous or preternaturally ambitious in some new direction. The genius belongs here. But the extreme picture of thwarting is offered by the psychoneuroses. On the physiological side: "The inferior organs incapable of compensation fall victims, under the influence of the outside world, to more rapid or slower destruction. On the other hand nature forms from inferior organs, under the morphology, structures which are in many cases quite capable functionally and even at times somewhat better adapted to external circumstances, since they have derived their increase in strength in overcoming these obstacles and have consequently stood the test." (P. 56.)

The theory of organ inferiority instances in a new field the well-known theorem of Le Chatelier that "a system tends to change so as to minimize any external disturbance." The suggestiveness of this theorem when applied to mental phenomena is unquestionable, but no one need read farther than the first instance cited by Adler to feel the necessity of caution. From such extremely general formulations no more is to be obtained than has previously been put in; explain everything by a simple formula and in fact you explain nothing. Even Adler apologetically remarks "I do not wish to deduce too much from this case" after describing as his first instance a boy who suffered injury in the right eye three times within a half year, twice through being jabbed by a schoolfellow's pen, and the third time through a coal-splinter, inquiry revealing various forms of pathological vision in relatives from his grandfather down. A straightforward statement that this affords evidence of hereditary defect in the conjunctival reflex would seem adequate. Following Adler, however, one learns in this particular case about defective use of the visual psyche, and ends by believing that "there is no organ inferiority without accompanying inferiority in the sexual apparatus." "Every organ inferiority carries its heredity through, and makes itself felt by reason of an accompanying inferiority in the sexual apparatus." (P. 53.) And if you are really of the initiated the following quotation will not strike you as obscure: "A fundamentally inferior psychomotor superstructure is placed over the organ which responds deficiently to its surroundings, a superstructure which, with every physical overexertion even as in playing or learning, may fail, and which will only suffice as a cultural control of the organ for a time, if a lasting interest, an inner attention, watches over the ordinarily wanton activity of the organ." (P. 72.)

The clinical cases are very largely examples of defect in the urinary apparatus.

We wonder that at this late day there is a demand for this monograph in translation.

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EFFECTS OF HOOKWORM DISEASE ON THE MENTAL AND PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN. By *Edward K. Strong, Jr.* International Health Commission—Publication No. 1. Rockefeller Foundation, N. Y., 1916. Pp. 121.

In 1912 the Rockefeller Sanitary Commission and the U. S. Public Service undertook an investigation for the securing of detailed information on the subject of the causes and the effects of hookworm. The present monograph is the result of the investigation. The study was made under the direction of Dr. Strong, and it is a significant step in the application of mental tests to social problems. It is remarkable for its compactness and careful use of methods of analysis, as well as for its social contribution.

One hundred and fifteen children were selected from a hookworm infested country for individual examination, physical and mental. Of these, 102 were studied and specially compared, divided into the following four groups: 22 A's (negative controls, or unaffected children); 12 B's (positive controls, or hookworm infected but untreated children); 36 C's (infected, treated and completely cured children); and 32 D's (incompletely cured subjects). The conclusions reached were on the basis of the comparison of the efficiency of the groups at different examinations, and of the relative improvement of the groups during the interval between a second and a third testing, a period of approximately four months.

The mental tests used were (1) Opposites, (2) A constant increment calculation test, (3) Logical memory, (4) Memory span for digits, (5) Hand-writing, (6) Goddard formboard, (7) The Binet-Simon tests. These mental tests showed on the average a distinct differentiation between the normal and infected groups, both as to absolute standing and as to improvement. The logical memory test turned out to be the best so far as the discerning of sluggish mental improvement in those infected with the hookworm was concerned. As would be expected irregularities were present in some of the tests. With the Binet-Simon series the normal children averaged approximately a year behind, the mildly infected 1.5 years, and the severe cases 2.0 years behind.

The physical tests showed clear initial difference between the normal and the hookworm infected, as to height, weight, grip and